

# Service Learning E-News

Parkland College's Bimonthly E-Newsletter on All Things Service-Learning and Volunteerism

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- Wesley Food Pantry @ Parkland College
- Welcome back Project READ!

**"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."**

–Elizabeth Andrew

## Online Resources

[S-L Clearinghouse](#)  
[CU Volunteer Database](#)  
[Parkland College Service Learning Website](#)

## Share Your S-L Stories

If you are involved in service-learning with Parkland students, please share your stories with the Parkland community by contacting [Gabi Fisher](#)

## Introducing the Parkland College Center for Community Engagement (C-134)

Yes, that's right! The Parkland Service-Learning Program is currently working on creating a new Center for Community Engagement for the Parkland community! This is extremely exciting news, and we cannot wait to get started! Service-learning, volunteerism, and community engagement are such important aspects of the Parkland experience, but until now, there has not been a specific space devoted to, and supportive of, this important work. Thus, one of the primary goals of this new center is to provide a hub for service-learning and other forms of community engagement, where faculty and students alike can connect with one another and with our community partners.

We ask for your patience as we begin the slow process of turning C-134 into a space for everyone to enjoy. In the meantime, you can find Parkland's AmeriCorps VISTA and Volunteer Coordinator, Gabi Fisher, in this new space.

## Holiday Volunteering

Are you starting to get into the holiday spirit? Are you looking for ways to give back to your community? Think about volunteering! Check out [CU Volunteer](#) for updated volunteer opportunities with organizations right here in Champaign-Urbana. CU Volunteer makes it easy to find volunteer opportunities through its user-friendly website. Search for opportunities by interest, skill, organization, or date. Whether you're looking for a way to give back during the holidays, or to start a new relationship with a community organization, CU Volunteer is a valuable resource.

If you want to volunteer but are unsure of where to start looking, even with CU Volunteer, here are a few suggestions:

- Wesley Food Pantry
  - The Wesley Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers to help in distributing food to families and individuals in need (more info below).
- Project READ
  - Help make a difference in an adult learner's life by spending one-on-one time with them as a tutor in reading, arithmetic, or English as a Second Language (more info below).
- Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
  - There's no better way to serve during the holidays than to volunteer with the soup kitchen, which provides hundreds of community members with warm meals every day.

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## MLK Day of Service

Parkland College will host a Day of Service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15th, 2018, from 10:00am to Noon. Parkland will, once again, partner with the Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland to hold a rice and bean repack. The repack will provide the Wesley Food Pantry with rice and beans for 3-6 months. The location of this event is TBA. Parkland students, faculty, staff, and their families, along with members of the community, are welcome to attend. If you're interested in attending, please contact Gabi Fisher at [gfisher@parkland.edu](mailto:gfisher@parkland.edu). If you are unable to attend, but are still interested in helping out, the Service-Learning Program will be accepting financial contributions to help purchase the rice and beans. If you would like to donate, please contact Brian Nudelman at [bnudelman@parkland.edu](mailto:bnudelman@parkland.edu).

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## Upcoming Volunteer Fair

Mark your calendars for the spring semester Volunteer Fair, set for Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Giertz Gallery Lounge. The Volunteer Fair is a great way to network, meet local nonprofit organizations, and become involved in local volunteer opportunities. We had a great turnout this semester, so we're excited to invite you to stop by the Fair, tell your friends about it, or maybe bring your class by to visit with community organizations. For more information, or for a list of participating organizations, please contact Gabi Fisher at [gfisher@parkland.edu](mailto:gfisher@parkland.edu) or (217) 353-3302.

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## Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland College

The Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland is located in M-138 (please enter from the outside of the building), and is open every Wednesday from 11am-1pm, and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month from 10:00am-noon. Besides offering an incredible service for our students, the Pantry provides an excellent opportunity for service-learning on the Parkland campus. Check out [their website](#) for more information about the Wesley Food Pantry and the ways to volunteer with them.

Please contact [Brian Nudelman](#) or [Gabi Fisher](#) for information on starting a service-learning component with the Pantry.

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## Project READ at Parkland Looking for Volunteer Tutors

Parkland College's Adult Education Program has reopened its adult literacy tutoring program to the public after a two-year hiatus, thanks to renewed state support. Project READ provides tutoring in reading, arithmetic, or English as a second language to adult learners (at least age 17, and officially withdrawn from high school) who meet certain grade-level requirements or assessment scores.

Residents can sign up to take part in free Project READ tutoring sessions by calling Adult Education at 217/353-2662, emailing [ProjectREAD@parkland.edu](mailto:ProjectREAD@parkland.edu), or by visiting Room E108 at the main campus.

Please contact Project READ at 217/353-2662 or [ProjectREAD@parkland.edu](mailto:ProjectREAD@parkland.edu) for more information or to sign up for training.

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